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Contact:

LuAnn Hunt, Volunteer Coordinator
Communications and Marketing
434.455.3803

MEDIA ADVISORY: NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK: APRIL 19-24—LYNCHBURG CITY RECOGNIZES VOLUNTEERS

Lynchburg City Mayor Carl B. Hutcherson has proclaimed April 19-24 as Volunteer Appreciation Week. In proclaiming Volunteer Appreciation Week, Hutcherson said, “Volunteers provide the City with valuable skills and resources that we wouldn’t have otherwise. We appreciate their time and dedication in helping us serve the public. They inspire us with a wonderful example of stewardship for the rest of our organization.”

In 2003, over 440 volunteers provided approximately 23,000 hours of service with an estimated value of nearly \$400,000 to the City of Lynchburg. These volunteers share their time and talents to make a difference in the community and serve in any number of capacities including:

- 101 volunteers serve on the City’s 35 boards and commissions. These volunteers sign on for a long-term commitment (usually a three-year minimum) and help to carry out the business of the City.
- The Lynchburg Regional Juvenile Detention Center has an average of 100 volunteers that include reading tutors, church groups, and college students.
- The Department of Parks and Recreation uses volunteers extensively for sports leagues, craft projects, animal caregivers, etc.



- The Waste Management Division benefits from the work of volunteers from Citizens for a Clean Lynchburg litter control group as well as approximately 60 residents that have “adopted a street.”

Several departments will honor volunteers during Volunteer Appreciation Week. On Wednesday, April 21, the City’s Public Works Department will honor 25 Tree Stewards with a luncheon at the Historic City Cemetery; the Lynchburg Public Library will also honor its 36 volunteers at a luncheon at the Library’s Community Meeting Room on Wednesday, April 28; and the Lynchburg Museum System recently honored 55 volunteers with an Awards Luncheon.

This year's national theme, "Volunteers Inspire by Example!" sets the stage for national, regional, and local organizations to applaud the efforts of volunteers, as well as, encourage others to help strengthen their communities. The Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network sponsors the annual week-long event.

“We salute the men women and young people whose selfless efforts are creating a culture of caring in America through volunteering,” said Robert K. Goodwin, president and chief executive officer of the Points of Light Foundation. “These unsung heroes are the fabric of our communities and our country.”

Anyone interested in volunteering with the City of Lynchburg is encouraged to call the City’s volunteer coordinator, LuAnn Hunt at 455-3800 or visit the website at **[www.lynchburgva.gov](http://www.lynchburgva.gov/corpcomm/VolunteerProgram/VolunteerProgram.htm)** (<http://www.lynchburgva.gov/corpcomm/VolunteerProgram/VolunteerProgram.htm>).

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